



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 [Committee Title]
 Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS	02/07/2022	6:30	zoom
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Chair Ed Harvey at 6:30 pm
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Tom Johnson, Jeff Wilson, Lowell Wright, George Meyer, Duane Hoefs, Jessie Espeseth, Steve Budnick, Ron Krueger, Bill Yingst, Scott McAuley, Matt McHugh, Steve Ninneman, Paul Witalison, Tashina Peplinski, Steve Staver, Mike Rogers, Ed Harvey, Laurie Groskopf
EXCUSED	David Lois, James Engebretson, Jeffry Giese, Mike Hurlburt
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Kari Lee-Zimmermann, Dustin Gabrielson, Randy Johnson, Jennifer Price Tack, Mike Melgaard, Bryan Harrenstien, Scott Karel - all DNR staff, Corky Meyer, public comments, Tony Blattler, WCC Chair, Amy Mueller, Cynthia Samuels, Mike Wade, Jean Voss, Jerome Donohoe, Vivian

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	approve agenda (1) Tom Johnson, (2) Mike Rogers MC

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair Ed Harvey reviewed the mission statement
ACTION	

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Corky Meyer, representing the WI Coon Hunters Association and WI Association of Sporting Dogs, made comments about the uncertain and unclear nature of rules pertaining to night light use while hunting. There is a need to clarify and define point of kill, types of lighting allowed and when they can be used. This rule needs to apply to predator callers as well as those who hunt at night using dogs - primarily Coon hunters
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Status and Content of Proposed wolf season rules

Scott Karel, all

DISCUSSION	Will the wolf rule proposed be a temporary emergency rule with a sunset or a permanent rule? Scott Karel noted that the emergency rule in place since delisting in 2012 had been worked on since 2011, with a break in discussion after the relisting of wolves in December, 2014. As delisting approached again, the DNR began again discussing the permanent rule in early 2021, but decided to use the old emergency rule when the season was scheduled for Feb., 2021. The proposed rule now is the exact same rule as the previous emergency rule used since 2012, except the recommendation to shorten the reporting time of harvest to 8 hours and the zone specific harvest permits. The administrative process in creating a permanent rule has 37 steps. It generally takes 2 years or longer. Committee asked when is the "last possible date" to get a rule in place so a harvest season can take place in 2022? DNR responded that there are so many steps that it is unknown when the drop dead date might be.
ACTION	Motion made to approve the wolf rules as written, Bill Yingst (1) Steve Budnick (2) Amendment to state that proposed rules will be emergency (temporary) for the 2022 season. Motion made George Meyer (1) Tom Johnson (2). on the motion to amend MC unanimous. on the resolution to approve the emergency wolf rules MC unanimous
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. Status of Wolf Management Plan and Monitoring Report

Randy Johnson, large carnivore manager

[Committee Title]

DISCUSSION	Randy described the process involved in creating and running the wolf harvest committee that worked on developing the 2021 fall wolf harvest and another separate committee, the Wolf Management Plan Committee which met four times during the late summer and fall of 2021. The minutes and work of this committee is posted on-line. The annual Wolf Monitoring Report was just posted on-line. This is a requirement for the federal government for post delisting monitoring. The report covers the period from April 15, 2020 - April 15, 2021.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Tom Johnson thanked Scott and Randy for their hard work. Jeff Wilson thanked the DNR for great work on the wolf rules. Lowell Wright concurs. Duane Hoefs said he hopes the rule goes forward. Laurie Groskopf said the new wolf advisory committee should be in place to assist with these efforts. Ron Krueger noted that the Langlade Co. Board passed a resolution to recommend a wolf goal of 350 or less. Scott McAuley noted that since wolf management zone 6 is considered not suitable wolf habitat, this zone should have an unlimited harvest capability. Steve Ninneman expressed his desire to see the committee get back to meeting in person. Paul Witalison said the tribe's quota should be used. Tashina Peplinski said thanks to all for welcoming her to the committee and for being on the call. Mike Rogers said "get it done". Ed Harvey noted the impressive turnout at this committee meeting.	
ACTION		

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	motion to adjourn 8:20 pm Tom Johnson (1) Mike Rogers (2) MC
SUBMITTED BY	Laurie Groskopf
DATE	02/08/2022